

MISSION

I seek to use my God given gifts to serve Christ as one among many who are sharing his Gospel and building his Church in a new day across all the divisions he comes to heal in our world.

Ruth Woodliff-Stanley

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ORDINATION

Priesthood, June 28, 1991, Diocese of Mississippi

Diaconate, June 13, 1990, Diocese of Mississippi

WORK

Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, July 2016 to Present

Chief of Staff and Operations (staff of 15); oversight of budget formulation and management, oversight of all diocesan property and legal issues, oversight of clergy pastoral care, letters of agreement, new clergy mentoring, disciplinary matters, insurance issues; conflict management in congregations; oversight of Commission on Ministry and Board of Examining Chaplains; primary staff liaison to Standing Committee for purposes of managing process; temporary (during staff transition) oversight of Annual Convention and temporary oversight of Camp and Conference Center staff and operations. Diocese is approximately 111 parishes, missions and ministries across 105,000 square miles of the state of Colorado.

Interim President, Episcopal Church Building Fund, November 1, 2015 to Present

Resigned from Board to fill short term interim to help organization in time of transition. Work includes managing a process of strategic organizational change together with board, furthering ecumenical partnerships with four other denominations, oversight of asset management, loan development and cutting edge consultation and education for church building initiatives. Fund size approximately 11 million.

Rector and Priest-in-Charge, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Denver, Colorado 2007 – October 2015

Served as Priest-in-Charge for three years then called as Rector in 2010. Focused on revitalization of this diverse, dynamic parish in northeast Denver.

Missioner, High Plains Region, Diocese of Colorado 2010-2013

Served a three year term to provide pastoral support and leadership development for 27 congregations in one of five Regions of The Diocese of Colorado. Oversaw annual regional budget, administered grants, provided support and leadership development to clergy and lay leaders; served as pastoral link to the Bishop. This position was held alongside my parish duties.

Consultant, 2002-Present

Hired by the Bishop, Diocesan and other Episcopal leadership bodies, and individual parishes for conflict mediation, transitional ministry consultations, mentoring clergy and vestries, visioning and strategic retreats, engaging across lines of difference and other types of leadership development. Worked full-time from 2004-2007. My consulting work now is folded into my roles as Canon to the Ordinary and as Interim President of The Episcopal Church Building Fund. Examples of this work include the following:

- *Standing Committee Facilitator (4 years, including most recently; 2015 and in 2016-17 in my current role as Canon, managed a process of strategic change with Standing Committee and Colorado Episcopal Foundation as key stakeholders)*
- *Bishops' Task Forces on Communion--Facilitator for 3, Chair for 1 (Colorado, Rio Grande, Mississippi)*
- *Consultant to Bishop, Standing Committee, and other Leadership of Diocese of Fort Worth, summer 2012 and Summer/Fall 2017 (in conjunction with my role with The Episcopal Church Building Fund)*
- *Facilitator for Leaders and Core Members of Black Lives Matter 5280—leadership development retreats*
- *Facilitator for approximately 20 public meetings for lay leaders and for clergy, Diocese of Colorado 2003-04*
- *Helped design and facilitate public meetings to review the Windsor Report, Diocese of Colorado*
- *Primary consultant to vestry of parish after highly publicized trial, property dispute, and departure of rector; Diocese of Colorado*
- *Retreat Leader for Board of The Colorado Episcopal Foundation*
- *Primary Consultant to multiple Vestries and Parishes dealing with high conflict in the Diocese of Colorado; responsible for designing and implementing processes to guide vestries and parishes through conflict into healing and resolution*
- *Office of the Bishop Staff Retreat Leader (2 years)*
- *Commission on Ministry Liaison leading formation retreats for diaconal candidates (6 years)*
- *Diocesan Mentor for Recently Ordained Clergy (ROC) Groups, (6 years)*
- *Facilitator to Colorado Deputation to General Convention for 2006 and 2009*

Private Psychotherapy Practice, Denver, 2002-2007

Small psychotherapy practice drawing on Bowen family systems theory and Jungian psychology, working primarily with professionals focused on life transitions.

Assistant Rector, St. James Episcopal Church, Jackson, Mississippi 1998-2002 (part time)

Hired as part of the after-pastor team after a case of misconduct resulting in a six million dollar lawsuit. Worked closely with wardens, vestry, and bishop to provide healing and be a liaison between parish and primary victim of misconduct. Also was responsible for adult education programming and other duties in life of parish. (1800 member parish)

Assistant Rector, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Jackson, Mississippi, 1991-1995 (part time)

Worked in areas of youth formation, adult education, pastoral care and others as assigned. (450 member parish)

Director of Department of Pastoral Care, Mississippi State Hospital 1991-1994

Supervised Chaplaincy Staff, recruited and mentored interns, developed program to provide religious services to 1200 patient residential mental health hospital; began a multi-hospital CPE program

Seminarian then Deacon on Staff, Trinity Episcopal Church, Branford, CT 1988-1991

Worked in adult education, youth ministry, pastoral care, liturgy planning, and other duties as assigned

Graduation Intern, Catholic Family Services, Milford, CT 1990-1991

Conducted individual, couples and group psychotherapy as well as workshops

Graduate Intern, West Haven Veterans' Administration Hospital, National Center for Research for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, 1989-1990

Worked with Vietnam Veterans in second generation treatment program for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder on unit that was one of four sites for national research for treatment of PTSD

EDUCATION

Yale Divinity School and Berkeley, Master of Divinity, summa cum laude 1987-1991

Columbia University School of Social Work, Master of Science in Social Work, 1988-1991

Swarthmore College, Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Psychology, with honors, 1981-1985

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Answering the Call to Radical Faithfulness— 5 month intensive course (on site and distance learning) at Pendle Hill Quaker Study Center in Pennsylvania grounding activism in spirituality. This included developing a project with my son now being implemented in Denver Public Schools and work on two writing pieces on white privilege. Spring-Summer 2015

Assisi Conferences--Two Year Certification Program in Archetypal Pattern Recognition--studying intersection of Jungian psychology and chaos theory physics as applied to human social systems, 2000-2002

Lombard Mennonite Peace Center:

Two Year Advanced Clergy Clinic--applying Bowen Family Systems theory to Church leadership

Mediation Training Course

Healthy Congregations Trainer Training

Clergy Leadership Project (1 year)

College of Preachers (1 year)

Multiple Conferences and Workshops for Social Workers and Psychotherapists on topics related to treatment issues as well as leadership development training such as Appreciative Inquiry

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AND HONORS

Chair of the Board, Cathedral Ridge Camp and Conference Center, Diocese of Colorado, 2012-2016

Vice Chair of the Board then Acting Chair, The Episcopal Church Building Fund, appointed 2011 (Resigned November 1, 2015 in order to assume Interim Presidency)

Consultant for Relationships/Leadership Development, Black Lives Matter 5280 (Denver Chapter) 2015-2017

Panelist/Speaker, **The State of Racism in America** Conference of The Episcopal Church, November 2013

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/state-racism>

(Go to Playlist Tab on Right Edge of Photo; Find Day 2 Panel #6, minute 18.35)

Published article, "Watch it Again," on **Voices**, a racial justice blog site of The Episcopal Church

<http://cqrcengage.com/episcopal/file/15KsmiUY5Ns/Watch%20it%20Again%20Rev.%20Ruth%20Woodliff-Stanley.pdf>

Elected First Deputy for Colorado Deputation to General Convention, 2012

Colorado Haiti Project, Board Member 2005-2008, made trip to Haiti in 2006

Commission on Ministry Member, Diocese of Mississippi 1992-2002

Board of Examining Chaplains, Member, Diocese of Mississippi 1992-2002

Facilitator for Post Ordination Consultation, Diocese of Mississippi 1993-2002

Winner, Award for Outstanding Work in Two Year Certification Program, Assisi Conferences 2002

Published Sermon in Upper Room Book: **Anger** 2010

<http://books.upperroom.org/book/anger/>

Chaplain to Integrity, Diocese of Mississippi, 1992-1996

PERSONAL

Married to Nathan Woodliff-Stanley for 30 years Nathan is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and serves as Executive Director of The Colorado Chapter of the ACLU.

2 sons--George, age 22 and John, age 18 both college students at Swarthmore College

Enjoy time with family (including the four of us and extended family), being with close friends, creative writing, traveling, hiking, swimming, gardening, dancing, great coffee, cooking, and eating what my family cooks for me, concerts, and riding great roller coasters.

REFERENCES

The Rt. Rev. Robert J. O'Neill, Bishop of Colorado

Mr. Larry Hitt, Chancellor, Diocese of Colorado

Mr. Jay Swope, Immediate Past President, Standing Committee, Diocese of Colorado

Dr. Anita George, Member, Executive Council, The Episcopal Church